

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03 FEA-01

DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-03 /091 W

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R 280710Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6316

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN 859

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1134

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS EWWT IMCO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GROUNDING OF JAPANESE TANKER

REF: A) STATE 11235

B) JAKARTA 0756

C) JAKARTA 0868

D) SINGAPORE 0253

E) KUALA LUMPUR 0350

F) SINGAPORE 0329

G) KUALA LUMPUR 0469

H) TOKYO 927

1. ON BASIS EVENTS OF LAST TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING
SHOWA MARU ACCIDENT, WE NOW BELIEVE CHANCES HAVE
SLIGHTLY INCREASED THAT INDONESIA, MALYASIA AND
SINGAPORE MAY AGREE TO ADOPT REGULATIONS ON SHIPPING
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THROUGH MALACCA STRAITS WITHOUT SEEKING INTERNATIONAL

APPROVAL, PERHAPS AT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH. WE NOW BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL PRECUATION IN ADVANCE OF FORTHCOMING MINISTERS' ETING FOR USG TO APPROACH THE THREE GOVERNMENTS AS SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT'S REF A URGING IMCO APPROVAL OF ANY SUCH REGULATIONS.

2. WE STILL REGARD UNILATERAL ACTION AS OUTSIDE CHANCE, IN VIEW OF POSITION SINGAPORE HAS TAKEN THUS FAR INISTING ON INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS (REF D) AND MALAYSIA'S POSITION THAT SUCH REGULATIONS MUST BE ACCEPTABLE TO IMCO (REF E,F,G). HOWEVER, GOI EIGHT POINT STATEMENT (REF C) CALLING FOR "TRIPARTITE, OR IF NECESSARY, BILATERAL" REGULATIONS, WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO IMCO APPROVAL, RAISES POSSIBILITY GOI MAY PUSH HARD AT FORTHCOMING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING FOR REGULATION OUTSIDE IMCO FRAMEWORK AND THAT SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO GO ALONG WITH INDONESIA. DEMARCHE TO THREE GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TIME SUPPORTING IMCO ROLE IN REGULATION WOULD THEREFORE BE TIMELY PRECUATION.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT DEMARCHE SHOULD BE ENTIRELY ORAL, AND GENERAL IN NATURE, RATHER THAN IN FORM OF DRAFT SUGGESTED IN DEPARTMENT'S REF A. APPROACH SHOULD STATE USG INTEREST IN USE OF IMCO AS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS FORMULATED BY COASTAL STATES AND EMPHASIZE US SUPPORT FOR COASTAL STATE FORMULATION OF REGULATIONS, BUT WITH IMCO APPROVAL PRIOR THEIR PROMULGATION. WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE CLEAR IN APPROACH TO INDONESIA THAT OUR INTEREST IN IMCO APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS IS NOT EFFORT TO PUSH THEM TOWARD RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR STRAITS PASSAGE BEFORE THEY HAVE OBTAINEDDECOGNITION OF ARCHIPELAGO CONCEPT, AND IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI ON THESE SUBJECTS, OR OUR STANCE AT GENEVAL LOS SESSION.

4. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE ROLE FOR JAPAN IN PRESENTING PROPOSAL FOR IMCO APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS RAISED IN TOKYO'S REF H (PARA F), UNLESS GOJ WILLING AT THIS STAGE
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TO OFFER CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR DRAFT LIMITATIONS, WE DOUBT GOJ APPROACH ON DESIRABILITY OF IMCO ROLE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S REACTION MODIFIED DEMARCHE DISCUSSED PARA 3. REQUEST COMMENTS OF EMBASSIES KL, SINGAPORE AND TOKYO ON SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SHIP ACCIDENTS, OIL SPILLS, STRAITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART01134
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750030-1079
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750115/aaaaamyw.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 11235
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GROUNDING OF JAPANESE TANKER
TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, JA, ID, SN, MY, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006